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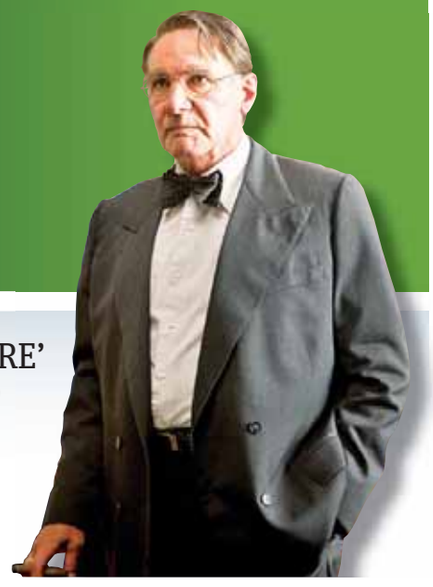

Shock horror

Vancouver transit police, hoping to deter would-be daredevils, release video of a SkyTrain graffiti-tagger leaping over a 600-volt rail PAGE 3

Oh, give me a home

Sure, the market may be in a slump, but people will always be looking for a house in Vancouver. Take our crash course in home buying PAGES 10 & 11

Hitting the sweet spot

Canada earns its first berth in the World Group semi-finals of the Davis Cup after tennis star Milos Raonic beats Italy on Sunday PAGE 18

'WE'RE GETTING THERE'

HARRISON FORD TALKS TO METRO ABOUT HIS ROLE IN THE JACKIE ROBINSON BIOPIC 42 (HE DOESN'T PLAY ROBINSON, OBVIOUSLY), AND HIS VIEWS ON EQUALITY FOR ALL PAGE 12

Did India notice Vancouver's Bollywood blitz?

Film awards. Newspaper report in India makes no mention of Vancouver or B.C.

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Politics, elaborate bhangra dances and shrieking fans marked B.C.'s foray into Bollywood at the inaugural Times of India Film Awards on Saturday night.

More than 38,000 stargazers clad in saris, suits and sherwanis packed BC Place for the gala, hosted and promoted by the province with $11 million in taxpayers' money under the guise of boosting trade and tourism with India.

But will this expensive party, loudly appreciated by attendees who paid between $62 and $2,000 for seats, deliver the promised payoff?

Despite Premier Christy Clark's claim that 400 million people watched the event, organizers said it has not yet been broadcast in either Canada or India. It will air in India in a few weeks and on the Asian Television Network in June.

In the Times of India's top online story about the event on Sunday, neither Vancouver nor B.C. was mentioned, NDP MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert said.

"It still seems to me that it was a last-minute attempt more at appealing to voters rather than bringing trade to the province," he said. "A lot of people had a good time, but 11 million bucks will buy a good time."

Liberal politicians were in promo mode at the gala, where MLA Mike de Jong performed a dance, Clark pitched B.C. as a tourism destination — to a scattering of "boos" — and a government video showed South Asian B.C. residents playing hockey and snowboarding. Last month, Liberals were rocked by scandal after a scheme to win the "ethnic vote" with "quick wins" came to light.

Tourism Vancouver does believe the awards could help shift the city's image to "sexy" from simply a place to visit expat family.

But as far as the film industry is concerned — one movie will be shot here because of TOIFA — Save BC Film is unconvinced the event will have "any effect whatsoever" since Bollywood films tend to be low-budget.

Paul Sullivan's take on 'Bollypalooza,' page 8.

Premier Christy Clark and Bollywood actor Shiamak Davar walk the red carpet at the Times of India Film Awards in Vancouver on Saturday night. Everyone agrees it was a great party, but not everyone is convinced the $11 million in taxpayers' money will pay off for the province. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Mortgage Matters p.10-11

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Economy

Job-creation numbers dip as election nears

Six months ago, Premier Christy Clark was touting British Columbia as Canada's job-creation engine, cranking out 57,000 new jobs and outpacing even Alberta without selling a drop of oil.

Clark told a Vancouver Island economic summit her government's highly touted September 2011 jobs plan — with its focus on increased trade with Asia and promoting liquefied-natural-gas exports, new mines and exploring innovations in technology and agri-foods — was working.

But it appears the engine has stalled and with a provincial election campaign days away, the Liberals are blaming national and international economic trends for their at-best fourth-place position among the provinces.

New Democrats say it's even worse, suggesting B.C. has dropped to ninth place, losing almost 35,000 jobs since September 2011, when factoring only private-sector job creation.

The Liberals say B.C. has added 32,300 jobs since August 2011, and ranks fourth in job gains compared to other provinces.

No matter who is right, Central 1 Credit Union economist Bryan Yu said B.C.'s performance since the jobs plan was introduced has been underwhelming.

"The numbers have been pretty weak," Yu said.

He suggested the Liberals and New Democrats can argue about who's got the right numbers, but the trend points toward slow job growth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A screengrab of a graffiti artist crossing the tracks at 29th Avenue Station. CONTRIBUTED

Tagger's disregard for safety shocks cops

29th Avenue Station. Suspect could have been electrocuted by SkyTrain rail, say Transit Police

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

A young tagger seen crossing electrified SkyTrain tracks has jolted Transit Police into delivering a safety message.

An 18-year-old woman is facing 14 counts of mischief after an alleged graffiti-tagging spree from October 2012 to March.

But what has really shocked police is surveillance video that shows a tagger jumping onto the SkyTrain tracks at 29th Avenue Station to spray-paint the wall on the other side.

"I'm not sure she knew the risk she was putting herself in," said Transit Police spokesperson Anne Drennan. "That's a 600-volt rail. Had she cracked the cover or touched the side of the rail with her foot, she could have died."

Transit Police released the security footage hoping it will deter others from making the same potentially fatal decision.

"We really want people to be aware of the extreme danger," said Drennan. "People see fresh, virgin walls and may be tempted to tag but they could also be electrocuted."

The suspect, who cannot be named because she was a juvenile at the time of the incidents, was arrested in West Vancouver after a common tag, "VAMP," and surveillance footage linked police to her.

Cleanup costs from the alleged spree are estimated at around $2,000, police say.

Follow Matt Kieltyka on Twitter @Mkieltyka

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Review. 'Genuineness' of search for Canadian mine workers in question

An internal federal review of a decision to grant permits to a Chinese company to bring temporary foreign workers from China for its B.C. coal mine found the company met or exceeded all requirements.

But the November report notes that the sequence of events in HD Mining's application to bring 201 miners over from China for its Murray River coal mine leaves some questions as to the "genuineness" of the company in its search for Canadian workers.

The File Review Report obtained by The Canadian Press through Access to Information found that due diligence was performed on the applications.

"The employer, HD Mining International Ltd., has met all the program requirements for the (Temporary Foreign Worker Program)," says the Nov. 27 report prepared by Michele Morandini, acting director of the program, and approved by Heather Backhouse, executive director of the Citizen Services program delivery branch, B.C. and Yukon.

However, the review noted that of the 201 applications submitted by HD Mining, 84 of the workers had previously been applied for by its sister company, Canadian Dehua International. Fourteen of those workers were resubmitted by HD Mining for different positions.

"The duties of these two positions do overlap somewhat, although the requirements for the position changed from 'on the job training' to 'three years of experience required,"' it says.

"Although the (temporary foreign worker) is not part of Service Canada's assessment, this could raise questions regarding the employer's intent and/or the genuineness of these job offers."

Two labour unions have challenged the decision to grant HD the labour-market opinions required for the program, and a judicial review is scheduled to be heard in Federal Court this week in Vancouver.

An undated memorandum to Human Resources Minister Diane Finley last year noted that HD met all program requirements and demonstrated a willingness to develop a program to train Canadians over time.

"However, the department remains concerned that, under HD Mining's current plan, the mines will be staffed predominantly by (temporary foreign workers) for the foreseeable future," it says. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vote on $7.4M in funding

Mayor urges support of grants for culture, arts

With Vancouver city council set to vote on $7.45 million in culture and art grants on Wednesday, Mayor Gregor Robertson on Sunday asked for unanimous support from councillors.

The city has recommended awarding grants to 165 organizations, including Arts Club Theatre, Bard on the Beach and Vancouver International Writers Festival among others. METRO

Deceased club member

Hells Angels ride to cemetery monitored by cops

A caravan of approximately 100 Hells Angels members and associates rode through the streets of Vancouver on Saturday with no incident, according to police.

Vancouver police say they were closely monitoring the event, which saw members of the motorcycle gang ride from its East End Clubhouse to a cemetery in Burnaby to pay respects to a deceased member of the club. METRO

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The outside wall of a school in Dadaab, Kenya, the world's largest refugee settlement. RITA IRWIN/CONTRIBUTED

UBC to help train teachers in Kenya

Dadaab. The university, in partnership with CIDA, will offer teaching diplomas to 700 teachers at refugee settlement

TYLER HARBOTTLE
The Canadian Press
exclusively for Metro

Education is a luxury for the hundreds of thousands of children who live in the Dadaab refugee settlement in northeastern Kenya. Just a fraction of these Somali refugees will finish high school; for those who do, post-secondary education is but a dream.

But a new program led by the University of British Columbia aims to change that by offering a two-year teaching diploma to 700 secondary-school teachers living at the camp.

The Borderless Higher Education for Refugees project will start training teachers in August, said Samson Nashon, a professor at the UBC faculty of education, who helped develop the program.

"A great need was brought to our attention," Nashon said. "The teachers who teach (in the camp) have no formal teaching education."

Most teachers are refugees themselves and many are graduates of the schools they now teach in, Nashon said.

"They have high-school qualification, but don't have access to post secondary or a way of training," he said.

The UBC faculty of education partnered with York University and three Kenyan universities to build the curriculum and launch the diploma program.

A $4.5-million grant from the Canadian International Development Agency will fund the program for five years, Nashon said.

"We thought equipping (teachers) with teaching skills is the best way of helping them," he said.

Teachers often wrangle classes of more than 150 students and are paid less than $20 per month for their work, Nashon said.

It is not uncommon for 20 students to share one textbook, he said, noting this unique teaching environment requires a special approach when training teachers.

"Working in groups becomes a very important strategy for teaching," he said, adding that the program's curriculum will evolve as they receive feedback from the students and teachers.

"We teach strategies, they try them and we learn from that," he said.

Professors will deliver lectures using a mixture of onsite training, digital course material in MP3s or on DVDs, and online coursework.

More than 400,000 East Africans live in the Dadaab settlement. Many of them fled violence and drought in neighbouring Somalia.

"We are aware (the teachers) are refugees, and they are refugees because they came from a conflict zone somewhere," Nashon said. "Therefore, we have an embedded peace-education curriculum where we will be teaching things like tolerance."

"We want them to be people who can at least know that we can disagree but still live peacefully," he said.

Part of the grant money will go toward the construction of a technology centre where computers will have Internet access.

Northern B.C.'s medical system under scrutiny

Jackie Inyallie didn't have to die; in fact, the 24-year-old woman's injuries were considered to be "non-life-threatening."

But her foster mother says what should have been a 90-minute ambulance ride four years ago took five hours instead. Inyallie bled to death before doctors could save her.

The young woman's family says the story isn't unusual in British Columbia's north, where harsh weather, lack of a trauma centre, no cellular service, only one air ambulance, lesser-trained paramedics and a general centralization of services in the Lower Mainland can turn what would be a survivable trauma in southern B.C. into a tragedy.

Auditor general John Doyle found in a recent report that not much has changed since Inyallie's death.

His March 21 report, the first audit ever done on the BC Ambulance Service, found the service wasn't adequately reviewing dispatch decisions or properly reporting or addressing safety issues, and that lesser skilled paramedics are sometimes sent out together because of understaffing.

One study from 2002 used BC Coroners Service data to find there was a 75 per cent pre-hospital trauma-related death rate in northern B.C., a rate that's about six times higher than that in the Lower Mainland, where it's 12 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Airstrike kills 11 children: Officials

Afghanistan.
Interior Ministry says U.S.-led coalition killed six Taliban in operation

A fierce battle between U.S.-backed Afghan forces and Taliban militants in a remote corner of Afghanistan left nearly 20 dead, including 11 Afghan children killed in an airstrike and an American civilian adviser, Afghan officials said Sunday.

The U.S.-led coalition said it was assessing the incident but could not confirm that civilians were killed.

It also stressed that the airstrikes were requested by international forces. A strike in the same area, which killed 10 civilians last year, prompted Afghan President Hamid Karzai to ban his forces from requesting coalition airstrikes.

Officials said the airstrike occurred after a joint U.S.-Afghan force faced hours of heavy gunfire. The country's Interior Ministry said six Taliban were killed in the battle.

The battle unfolded on Saturday, the same day that six Americans were killed in violent attacks capping one of the bloodiest weeks of the nearly 12-year-old war. On Wednesday, insurgents ambushed a courthouse in the west, killing more than 46 people.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Afghan boy sits on his cart as he waits for customers in the old town of Kabul on Sunday. Civilian deaths have prompted a ban on Afghan forces requesting airstrikes. ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fighting season

The skirmish on Saturday showed Afghanistan's spring fighting season is underway.

- **Test.** This year's will be closely watched because Afghan forces will have less international support.

Liberal leadership race.
Trudeau buzz drowns out opponents as vote begins

Liberals have begun casting ballots to choose a leader they hope will guide them out of the political wilderness.

Voting began shortly after the six contenders made their final sales pitches at a national showcase on Saturday.

Some 127,000 Liberal party members and supporters are eligible to vote. The results will be announced next Sunday.

The outcome has been widely seen as a foregone conclusion since Justin Trudeau launched his campaign last October.

Trudeau's grand entrance, accompanied by throbbing music and throngs of chanting, placard-waving supporters, was in stark contrast to the others' subdued demonstrations.

The front-runner used his final pitch to launch a pre-emptive strike against the Conservative attacks that are inevitably coming if he wins.

He challenged claims that he's inexperienced and that his popularity is solely based on fondness for his father, former prime minister Pierre Trudeau.

"I know there are those who say this movement we're building is all about nostalgia.... Let's face it, they say that it's about my father," Trudeau said.

"Well, to them I say this: It is. It is about my dad.... It's about all our parents and the legacy they left us, the country they built for us," he said.

None of his rivals dared make any direct attacks on Trudeau, whose supporters dominated the crowd.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Justin Trudeau THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto

Police say women sexually assaulted teen in parking lot

Police are searching for four women, all in their 30s, after a 19-year-old male was allegedly sexually assaulted in a downtown parking lot on Saturday night.

The teen met the suspects at a nightclub in the city's entertainment district, Toronto police say.

He left the club with the women after they offered him a ride home.

According to police, the 19-year-old was driven to a parking lot where he was allegedly sexually assaulted by all four suspects.

The teen was released after the attack, and the women fled in a silver Honda SUV.

All suspects are described as white and between 30 and 36.

They were last seen wearing short black dresses and high heels.

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Student editing help gets Wikipedia crabby

'Anyone can edit'?
Online encyclopedia isn't quite as keen on crowdsourced content as previously thought

A recent dust-up between Wikipedia and Canada's largest university raises questions about how collaborative the popular website that bills itself as "the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit" truly is.

The online information portal recently took a professor from the University of Toronto to task for one of his classroom assignments.

Steve Joordens urged the 1,900 students in his introductory psychology class to start adding content to relevant Wikipedia pages. The assignment was voluntary, and Joordens hoped the process would both enhance Wikipedia's body of work on psychology while teaching students about the scientist's responsibility to share knowledge.

Psych 101: Part of Wikipedia's entry on psychologist Abraham Maslow. SCREENGRAB/WIKIPEDIA

But Joordens's plan backfired when the relatively small contingent of volunteer editors that curate the website's content began sounding alarm bells. They raised concerns about the sheer number of contributions pouring in from people who were not necessarily well-versed in the topic or adept at citing their research.

Discussions in the Wikipedia community became very heated with allegations that articles were being updated with erroneous or plagiarized information. Some community members called for widespread bans on university IP addresses and decried the professor's assignment as a needless burden on the community.

Joordens issued a statement defending his students, saying only 33 of the 910 articles edited were tagged for potential problems. But he also acknowledged that he did not understand the limited scope of the Wikipedia editorial community, which boasts a few thousand members compared to the more than 488 million people who visit the site every month. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Too many cooks

"I assumed that the current core of editors was extremely large and that the introduction of up to 1,000 new editors would be seen as a positive."
University of Toronto professor Steve Joordens

Foreign workers. RBC facing customer backlash over report

The Royal Bank of Canada was scrambling to explain its hiring practices to customers Sunday after a media report claiming the bank was employing foreign workers to replace Canadian staff prompted a flood of outrage.

Canada's largest bank said it has not hired foreign workers to take over the job functions of current employees, but said it uses external suppliers as one of its strategies to improve "operational effectiveness."

The bank's move to clarify its hiring strategies came after a CBC News report that quoted a Toronto employee working in IT systems support for RBC Investor Services who said he and dozens of others were losing their jobs to temporary foreign workers. Dave Moreau told the public broadcaster that he and others are being made to train the new workers who will be taking their jobs.

RBC said it planned to discuss the situation with government officials. That wasn't enough to placate a number of Canadians who took to the Internet to express their anger at what many called unfair hiring practices. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online outrage

- On Facebook, a Boycott Royal Bank of Canada group had more than 2,100 "likes" by Sunday evening.

RBC says it has not hired foreign workers to take over the job functions of current employees. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Providence, R.I.

Empty 'Superman building' is symbol of economic slide

Rhode Island's tallest building will soon be the most visible symbol of the state's long economic decline.

The 26-storey Art Deco-style skyscraper, known to some as the "Superman building" for its similarity to the Daily Planet headquarters in the old TV show, is losing its sole tenant this month. It will no longer be fully lit at night, if at all, its owner says. It's a blow for the city and the state, which had 9.4 per cent unemployment in February and has had one of the worst jobless rates in the U.S. for years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem

Hackers target Israeli websites

A weekend cyber-attack campaign targeting Israeli government websites failed to cause serious disruption, officials said Sunday. The attacks followed warnings in the name of the hacking group Anonymous that it was launching a massive attack. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAMBOOZLED BY BOLLYWOOD?

URBAN COMPASS

Paul Sullivan
vancouver@metronews.ca

I'm not sure whether I'm dazzled or bamboozled.

Or maybe that's just puzzled.

At any rate, my head is full of Z's after the passage over the weekend of the Times of India Film Awards, a.k.a. TOIFA, or "TOFFEE," as Mike De Jong is inclined to pronounce it.

Not that you can blame Mike. This was the inaugural TOIFA event, so the B.C. government house leader was travelling in uncharted waters.

Here he was, a representative of the province hosting the newest Bollywood awards, despite the fact that the movies are made in India, the vast majority of their fans are in India and the vast majority of the people who will watch the broadcast of the show are in India.

And the only reason TOIFA was here at all was that his government pledged to spend nearly $11 million to put them on. That didn't seem to bother him, even though he is also finance minister and has only recently undergone unseemly fiscal contortions to balance his 2013 budget. Or that the local film industry is furious because the government is willing to spend millions on the film industry of another sovereign nation while refusing to increase the tax credits for the local industry, so as to keep it competitive with other North American film jurisdictions.

It didn't bother him or Premier Christy Clark, who turned up in traditional Indian garb, that Vancouver is still now and then referred to as Hollywood North, occasionally (because of the weather) Brollywood, but that Bollywood is in India. Mumbai, to be precise.

So I wouldn't be surprised if Mike's head is full of Z's after the weekend, although you have to hand it to him: He seemed game, joking at one point that he's considering a career move to acting because "you never know when you might be looking for work." Could be as early as May 15, Mike, especially if you keep spending the taxpayers' dollars on apparently random attempts to buy votes.

On the other hand, it's easy to be dazzled. BC Place was packed to the rafters with Bollywood fans. Some of the world's most astonishingly beautiful people graced the red carpet, and the music and dancing beat the heck out of the annual attempt by Oscar to overcome his stodgy reputation. Nothing stodgy about Bollywood.

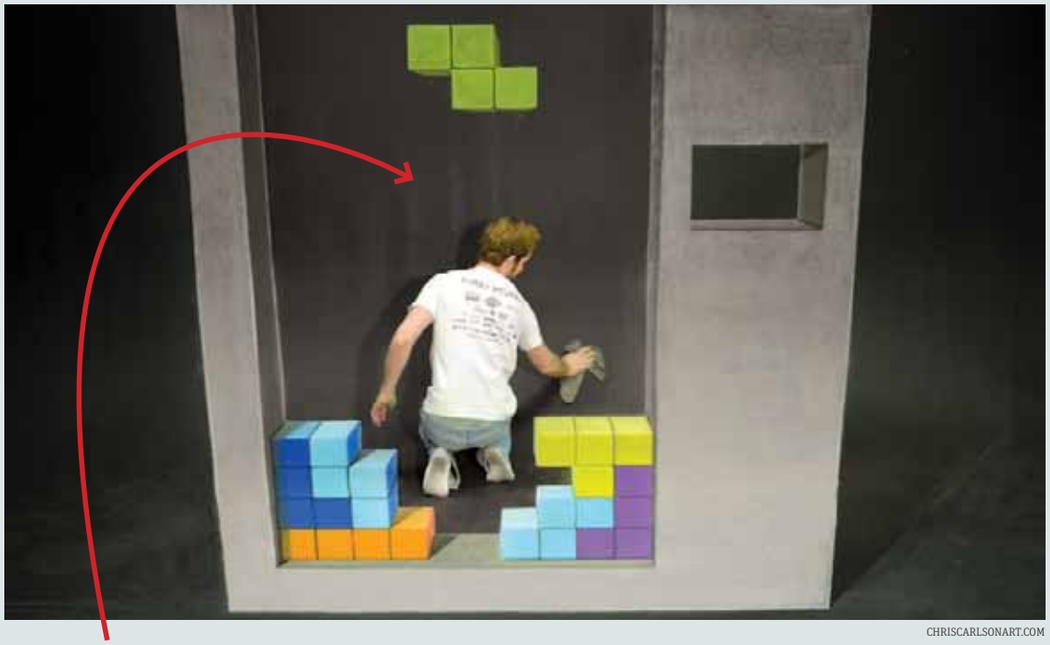
It will be interesting to see if the $11-million investment pays off in increased tourism or new movie production. Vancouver has been a stand-in for Seattle or L.A. for so long, can Mumbai be such a stretch?

And if it all comes to naught, maybe we're just hosting the wrong awards show. If Christy and Mike are still running the government in 2014 (best performance in a science-fiction film?) maybe they'll try Brazil or Moscow or Belgium. Belgium has a movie industry, doesn't it?

Meanwhile, it was fun while it lasted.

ZOOM

Chalk this one up to dedication



CHRISCARLSONART.COM

The next level of Tetris: flip-book art

Artist Chris Carlson is known for his anamorphic 3D stop motion videos. Using chalk, he draws different images and animates them by taking different pictures of his work and putting them together like a flip-book.

In his latest video, he pays homage to the iconic puzzle game Tetris.

Although art is his passion, Carlson didn't set out on this path. He initially went to business school and received a finance degree. However, after seeing 3D chalk drawings on the Internet, he decided to give it a try.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Game boy

"I needed some art for my walls. It was the first time I tried to do a painting so I did a lot of abstract work."

Chris Carlson on his first project

Just a block of time

40 hours

It took Carlson 40 hours to complete the 50-second video, which he did in four 10-hour days.

"There were days where I thought I was going to go crazy in the studio drawing Tetris block after Tetris block," he admitted.

Visit chriscarlsonart.com.

Building blocks of kindness. First-ever LEGO Games go down April 28

News worth sharing

Media will always have to report on the tough stuff. But we know that Canada is full of compassionate people, inspiring projects and stories worth celebrating. Here's just one:

Sometimes little pieces can add up to a big idea.

About eight months ago, Darian Kovacs and his six-year-old son, Caedmon, attended a small LEGO-building event at the Whistler Museum.

"It was the coolest event idea ever," says Kovacs, who enjoyed seeing his son having fun and getting creative, and immediately dreamed of organizing his own event.

Kovacs, who has worked with youth in a variety of capacities, got his chance a few months later when a group of business students from the University of British Columbia approached him about doing a course-related charity project.

The result? The Vancouver LEGO Games on April 28, where competitors aged 5 and up will compete in a variety of LEGO-building categories.

Prizes are donated by Toy Trader, a very supportive local business, Kovacs says.

The proceeds will support Canuck Place Children's Hospice, a charity close to Kovacs's heart.

Although tickets are sold out, the event organizers are still looking for volunteers to help. Visit vancouverlegogames.com to learn more.

CRAIG AND MARC KIELBURGER

Craig and Marc Kielburger are founders of the international charity and educational partner Free The Children. Its youth empowerment event, We Day, was in eight cities across Canada last year, inspiring more than 100,000 attendees.

Email them for more information and to get involved. Help the good news get around. Send your stories to goodnews@metowe.com and we'll share them right here.

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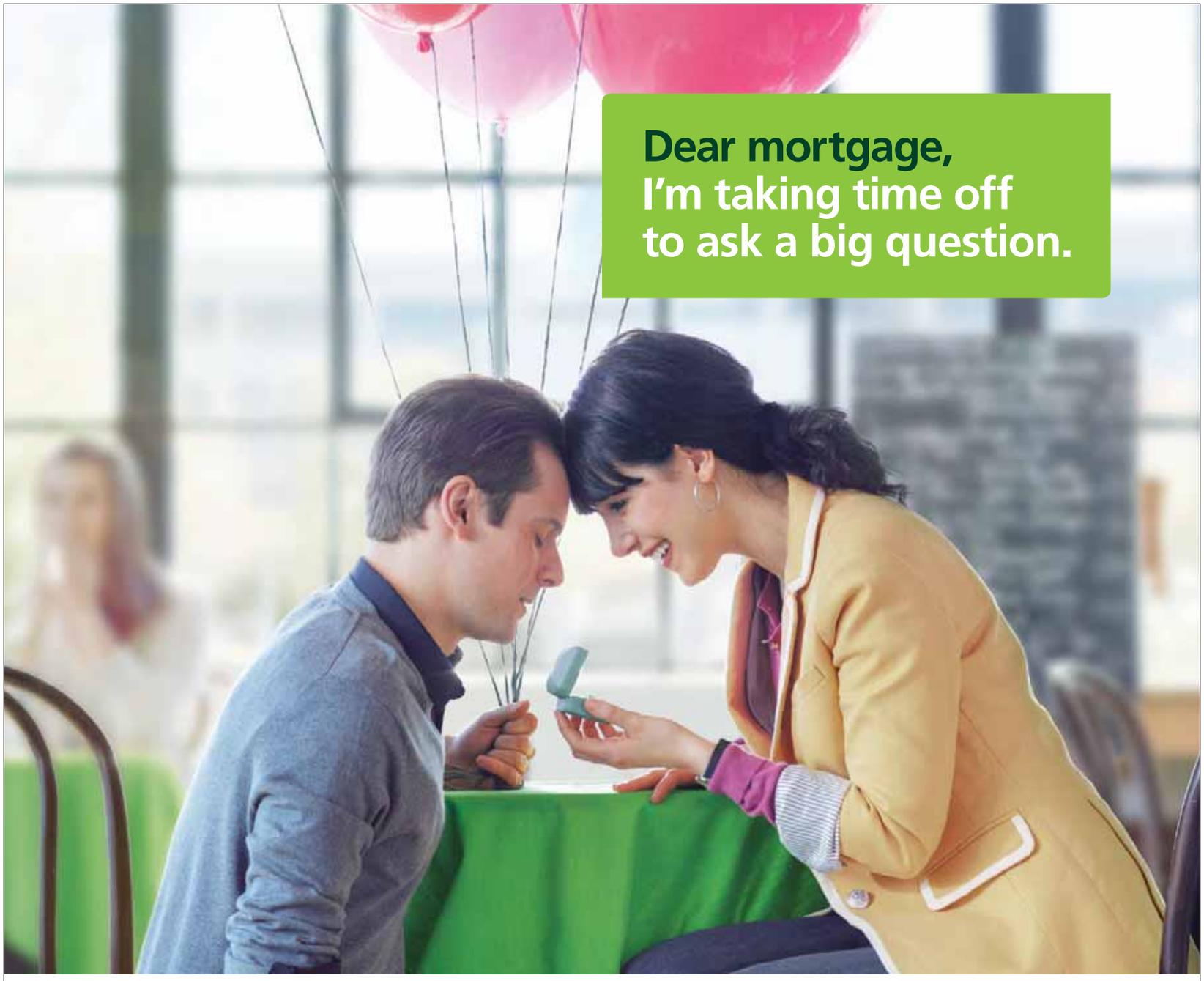

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The great homebuying debate

New versus used.
Decision will be based on your needs

LESLEY SCORGIE
For Metro

There are pros and cons to buying new versus resale (used), but the decision should support your needs. JUPITERIMAGES/CREATAS/THINKSTOCK

There are benefits and drawbacks to buying a new versus resale (used) home and there is no clear winner in this debate — the decision has to support your needs.

Besides the "new home smell," the key benefits of buying new are that no one else has lived in the home, you can often customize features, and it is up-to-date with technology, codes and standards. New homes also showcase modern design, offer warranties (check the conditions) and have sparkling new appliances.

The drawbacks, however, are that homebuyers must pay HST/GST, which adds up to thousands. The government does offer certain rebates to new homeowners, so check its website (cra-arc.gc.ca). Additionally, many new homes are located in developing communities further from the city centre where schools and parks are not complete.

The key benefits of buying used are that you can see exactly what you are getting, neighbourhoods are typically developed and the community culture is long established, which may suit your lifestyle. This combination allows you to observe road traffic, sense of community, and accessibility to schools, parks, and retail stores. You may also benefit from add-ons from the previous owner like a garage, or upgraded countertops. In many cases, the landscaping is complete and trees are mature.

But there are compromises when buying resale. Unless you plan a major renovation, you can't move walls, pick tiles, or select the size of your bathroom vanity. Resale homes also tend to be older and can have higher associated maintenance costs.

If you want the best of both worlds, consider building a new home in an established neighbourhood.

In all cases of home purchasing, for personal peace of mind and financial protection, get a home inspection. A qualified home inspector can uncover issues that you can't see with the naked eye.

Home inspections are an important safeguard

Bills can certainly pile up when purchasing a home. But one you shouldn't skip out on is a home inspection.

Typically, for a few hundred dollars through a visual inspection, an inspector can help determine the overall quality of the property you are going to buy. Their job is to communicate to you the condition the house is in and, specifically, identify whether there are certain aspects that require repair, replacement, maintenance, or are concerning in other ways.

Besides offering an overall opinion as to the structural integrity of the property and/or building, the main aspects of the home that an inspector examines are:

- Foundation.
- Windows, doors and walls.
- Roof, gutters, outside walls and the slope/drainage of the property.
- Plumbing and electrical systems.
- Heating and cooling systems.
- Insulation and ventilation.
- If it's a condominium, common areas are examined.
- Many inspectors will turn on all the appliances to see that they function, but this isn't their key focus since appliances may work one day, then become broken the next.

When an inspector identifies trouble spots with the property, they can often provide some level of assessment as to the costs associated with fixing the issues. But if the inspector doesn't offer a financial assessment, they have contacts within the renovation and repair business who can provide quotes.

Should the inspector identify significant issues with the property (typically costing more than a few thousand dollars to fix), buyers often have the right to renegotiate, or walk away from their offer to purchase. However, this conditional clause must be written into the offer.

There isn't a national standard for home inspectors. Rather, home inspectors are provincially regulated. So, wherever you live, check out your province's official website for qualified home inspectors.

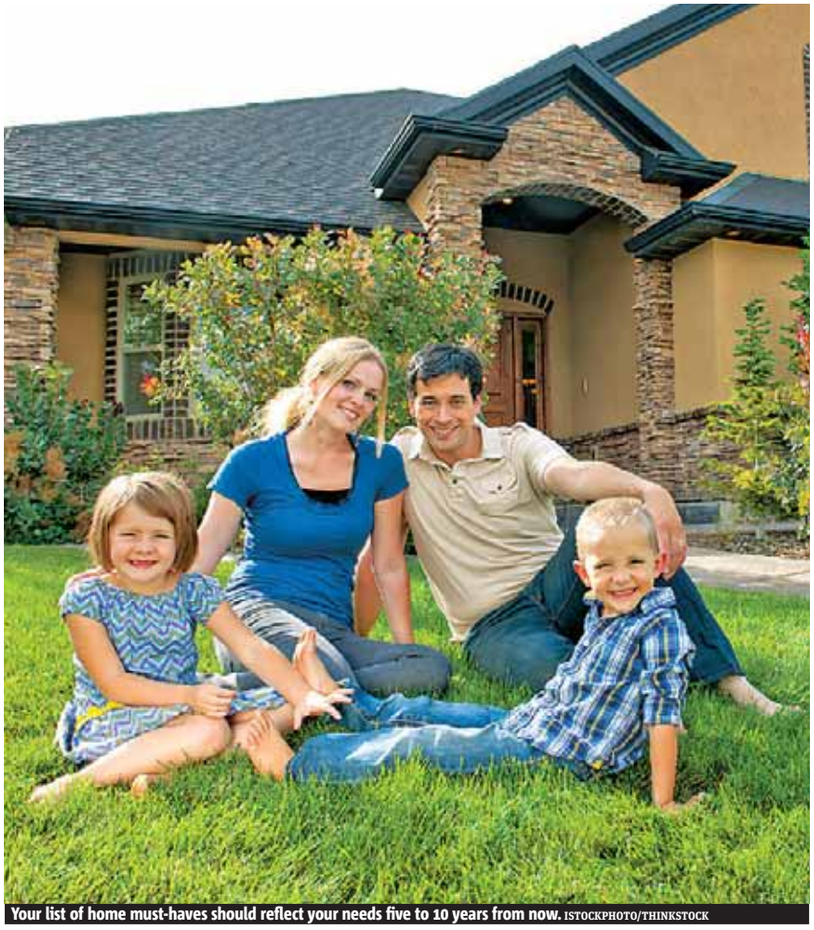
You can find a home inspector through your realtor, referrals from friends and family or by looking up local inspectors through your province's official home inspection website. Once you have interviewed the inspector, check that your home inspector has the correct certification and qualifications.

LESLEY SCORGIE

Get an appraisal

- Whether there are trouble spots with your property or not, get an appraisal. An independent appraisal will reveal how much the property is worth. It takes into account the home inspection (the shape the property is in), current market conditions and comparable properties within the area. This assessment should help protect the buyer from overpaying.

A home inspector can determine the quality of property you are thinking about buying. COMSTOCK/THINKSTOCK



Your list of home must-haves should reflect your needs five to 10 years from now. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Prepare your home wants and needs

Congratulations, you have saved a down payment and you are ready to shop.

Before you start visiting random open houses or hire a realtor, prepare a list of your needs and wants. This will guide your house hunting, saving both time and money.

According to a recent ComFree Network survey, more than one-quarter of Canadians move every five years, and another 14 per cent get the urge much sooner. Your list of home must-haves should reflect your needs five to 10 years from now.

Of greatest importance is location. Think about safety, accessibility, and resale ability. Weigh the pros and cons of living urban versus suburban versus outside city limits — namely commuting, noise, and property size versus price.

To save time and commuting costs, do you want to live near your workplace? If you are car-less, how easily accessible is public transit, Car2Go or ZipCar? If you have children, access to schools and playgrounds is vital. If you are a fitness junkie, nearby recreational facilities are important.

Both the property and location should support your lifestyle. If you are an adventure fanatic you will want easy access to the outdoors and space for skis, bicycles and canoes. Children and pets often require family-friendly yards and playrooms. If you work from home, you will need a home office. Entertaining overnight guests or having a roommate may translate into a larger kitchen and spare bedrooms. If walking to get a coffee every morning is important, buy near a bustling java stop.

Life stage dictates optimal size. Will you move in with your partner or need a spare room for a baby? How many bath and bedrooms will you require? If you own a vehicle, will you have parking?

Based on your wish list, select the ideal home type — townhome, attached or detached home, or condominium.

Use CMHC's Home Features Checklist to pull it all together.

LESLEY SCORGIE

Freehold ownership

- Freehold ownership is where you and/or another person own both the physical land and the home on the land. As long as you don't break any laws, you can do almost anything to the property. With condominium ownership, you own the unit you live in and share in the ownership of common space within your building. You are limited in what can be changed.

Buying and selling. Finding a good agent

LESLEY SCORGIE
For Metro

Real estate agents work on commission and sometimes their interests differ from yours. But there are many benefits to working with a good agent — they are knowledgeable about the real estate market (where, when, and how to buy) and how to conduct a successful real estate transaction.

Often, they have access to better market information than you might have, such as price comparisons or future community development plans. So if a house went up for sale, they might be notified of the listing before it is posted for the public to view.

To find an agent, ask your friends and family for referrals. Next, check out local advertising. Tour the areas in which you would like to live and look at the for sale signs on some of the houses that catch your interest. The real estate agent's name, phone number, and website should be listed there.

Interview at least three agents and phone their past clients for references. You will want to work with someone who is competent, experienced, has a proven track record of integrity and high standards, knows how to negotiate, and understands finances well.

A good agent will stick to your guidelines and provide information and ideas that are within your boundaries.

If you choose not to work with an agent, you will have to research the areas in which you want to buy, learn the price points of homes, set up your own appointments to view the homes, and educate yourself on how to conduct a real estate transaction. You will also need to arrange for the home inspection and, if the inspector finds something seriously wrong, you will have to deal with the legalities of backing out of the sale if you choose to do so.

Carefully consider the time and risks involved when you don't use an agent. Unless you have a significant amount of time on your hands, it's going to be hard to manage the entire homebuying process successfully, especially if it's your first time buying.

Keep in mind that as the buyer, you typically don't pay your realtor a fee, the seller does.

A good real estate agent will provide information and ideas that are within your boundaries. DAVID SACKS/LIFESIZE/THINKSTOCK

Resources

- Whether you choose to work with a realtor or not, there are plenty of resources that can help with your research. Check classified ads in papers and online. Hitwise released its top Canadian real estate websites in 2011. The top 10 were: realtor.ca; RE/MAX; ComFree Network; Royal LePage; Century 21 Real Estate; Homes.Point2.com; Viewit.ca; Sutton; Realtor Link; and Property Guys.

Harrison Ford and Chadwick Boseman star in 42, which opens this Friday. HANDOUT

Ford's pitch for civil rights

Baseball breakthrough. Star doesn't know much about sports, but he has plenty to say about issues of equality

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Before you ask, Harrison Ford doesn't want to talk about Star Wars. Or Indiana Jones or other franchises that he may or may not be taking part in again. "Ain't going there," he offers simply. And he's not much interested in the broader workings of Hollywood as an industry as far as why certain types of films have a better chance of getting made than others. But social justice issues? He has plenty to say about those. That's a big reason why he took on the part of Brooklyn Dodgers general manager Branch Rickey, the man who brought Jackie Robinson on as the first African-American player in major league baseball.

You were a kid when the events in 42 happened.
I was born in 1942. I wasn't a big baseball fan, so I think it went largely unnoticed in our family. My parents were old-style Democrat liberals and they were very interested in social justice, but because we weren't so involved in baseball we didn't really so much notice, and I think they were very involved and vocal when it came to the civil rights movement years later, but by then I had fled the nest. So I vaguely knew that something was happening, but I wasn't a sports fan, didn't follow sports.

Did you ever become a baseball fan?
Nope, nope. You know, I learned what I needed to learn about the business of baseball, what was going on in baseball and who these characters were that were coming into my office as elements in the story. But that's the depth of my knowledge.

Do you see any parallels between Robinson's story and the current battle for marriage equality?
I think there's a metaphor you can reach for, according to your own interests and your own understanding and your own issues. But trying to create the best expression of the ideals — the most equal society, the best-regulated society, the best-behaving society — depends on attending to equality and inequity whenever it rears its ugly head. Certainly the marriage issue conveniently falls into that category.

It's remarkable how quickly opinions on it have been changing over the last few years.
Yeah, things do change quickly at a tipping point, as it builds and it builds and it builds until there's a moment where the balance of opinion, the weight of experience and the understanding comes to a point where the scales tip in the other direction. We're getting there, we're getting there. You know, you would hope that it would have happened with less resistance. You would have hoped that everyone would get the point at the same time, but life's not like that.

You recently worked for a bit on Anchorman 2.
I went to Atlanta to do a cameo in Anchorman 2 — if you call that work. It felt like a goofy dream. It's a whole different ball of wax.

Is that character anything like the TV news man you played in Morning Glory?
Dangerously close, unless what I did to get distance between the two of them worked.

Iron Man 3. Downey Jr. in China to promote film

Actor Robert Downey Jr. has travelled to Beijing to promote Iron Man 3, which was filmed partly in China and features well-known Chinese actors. At a news conference Saturday, Downey — who reprises the role of Tony Stark in the upcoming movie — said he's fascinated with Chinese culture and loves Chinese movies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Robert Downey Jr. talks Tony Stark in Beijing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big bucks

Demons, dinos rule box office

Sunday studio estimates put the demonic horror remake Evil Dead at No. 1 with a $26 million debut. In a tight fight for second-place were two holdovers, the animated comedy The Croods and the action flick G.I. Joe: Retaliation, both with an estimated $21.1 million. The 3D debut Jurassic Park came in fourth with $18.2 million. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nora Ephron. Writer the subject of son's HBO doc

Nora Ephron will be the subject of an HBO documentary being made by one of her sons, journalist Jacob Bernstein.

The network said Friday that the project, titled Everything is Copy, will also have Vanity Fair editor Graydon Carter as executive producer.

Ephron died at age 71 last year. She was the writer behind films When Harry Met Sally, You've Got Mail and Sleepless in Seattle. Her last project is the current Broadway play about journalist Mike McAlary, with Tom Hanks in the starring role.

The documentary's title is a reference to Ephron's feeling that all of life's experiences provide fodder for a writer.

The documentary project was first reported in the Hollywood Reporter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Pop goes the week

Selena is so over Bieber, Lady Gaga is so over her old wheelchair

STARGAZING
Malene Arpe
scene@metronews.ca

Lady Gaga switches her post-operation 24-carat gold wheelchair for a Louis Vuitton wheelchair. In unrelated news I just switched my moderate queasiness to full-blown nausea.

Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart reportedly spent the Easter holidays together. They enjoyed ham, chocolate, clumsy hugs and awkward silences.

Selena Gomez says she isn't looking for a boyfriend after breaking up with Justin Bieber. Understandable. After dating a no-shirt-wearing, neighbour- aggravating, drop-crotch-pants-loving, too-many-cars-owning, non-stop-partying, and compulsively-in-stagramming-monkey fancier it would be difficult to settle for less.

This week Lindsay Lohan allegedly took home a whole bunch of stuff from the Anger Management set and she was photographed hiding under a table on a dirty floor in a Brazilian night club. Even Justin Bieber is concerned.

Madonna's alcoholic brother, who lives under a bridge, says Madonna doesn't "give a bleep if he's dead or alive".

Says a rep for Madonna: "That's not true at all. Once upon a time Madonna and two billy goats came upon her brother's bridge and tried to pass and it became this whole thing. Not her fault at all."

Amanda Seyfried is mistaken for Lindsay Lohan at an airport. That explains Amanda's emergency face tattoo and sex change surgery.

Twitter

@jason_mraz
My phone's about to die. I hope it comes back as a taco.

@mcgregor_ewan
Outside Bath at @ElQuestro Homestead. Had to do a paparazzi sweep of the rocks first!

@lenadunham
I do occasionally wish I was more theoretical and more slim in that odd way poets often are

Halle Berry expecting baby boy

Halle Berry is pregnant, her rep tells Us Weekly. "We can confirm that Halle Berry and Olivier Martinez are expecting a child," the rep says. Sources tell TMZ that the bundle of joy will be a boy, providing a baby half-brother to five-year-old Nahla, Berry's daughter with ex-boyfriend Gabriel Aubry. Berry and Martinez, who met while filming Dark Tide, have been engaged for a little more than a year.

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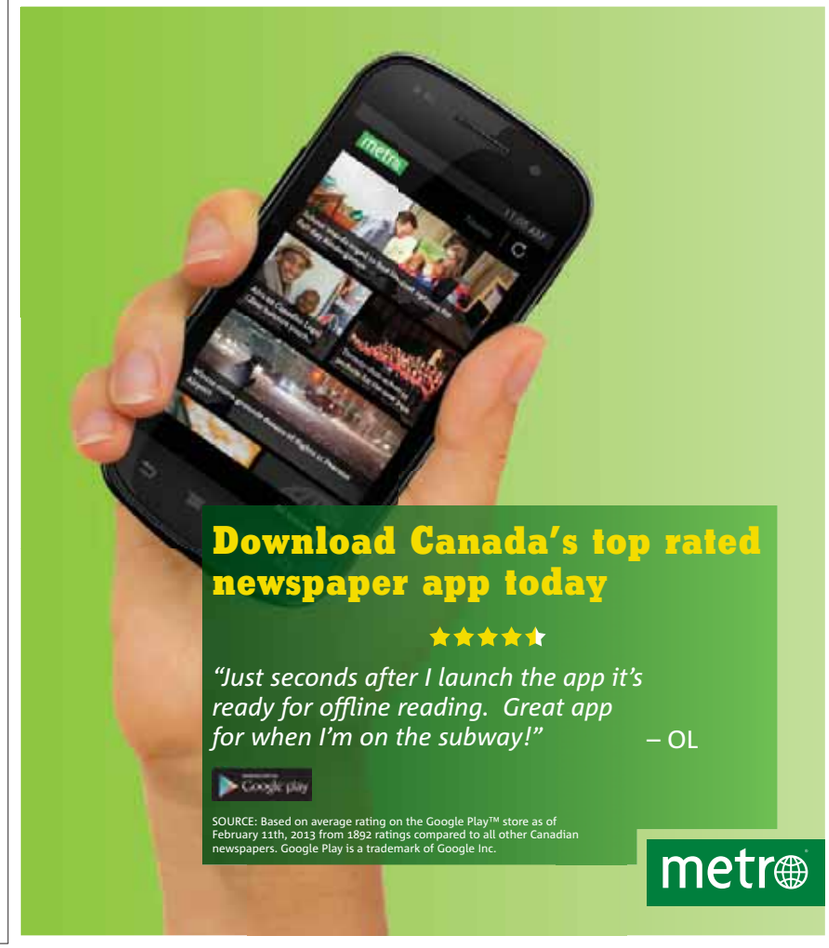

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The dental exam - more than a 'checkup'

The foundation for good dental health

As with your overall health, prevention and early detection are the cornerstones of good dental health. Regular brushing, flossing, good nutrition and not smoking all have a role to play in reducing the risk of cavities, gum disease and other oral disease.

Equally important is a regular dental exam, even if you wear dentures, which can identify and diagnose small problems before they become more serious.

"Dental disease often does not show symptoms until the disease has progressed," said Dr. Bruce Ward, spokesperson for the British Columbia Dental Association.

"Patients are not aware that a problem exists until they have pain or swelling. Unlike other illnesses or diseases, dental disease is not reversible so catching it early is critical to prevent ongoing problems or negative health impacts."

By understanding what the dentist is looking for during an exam and speaking with your dentist about your diagnosis you can make informed decisions about your dental health needs.

Each patient is unique so the specific components of the dental examination will vary based on your current oral and general health, lifestyle factors and frequency of professional dental cleanings.

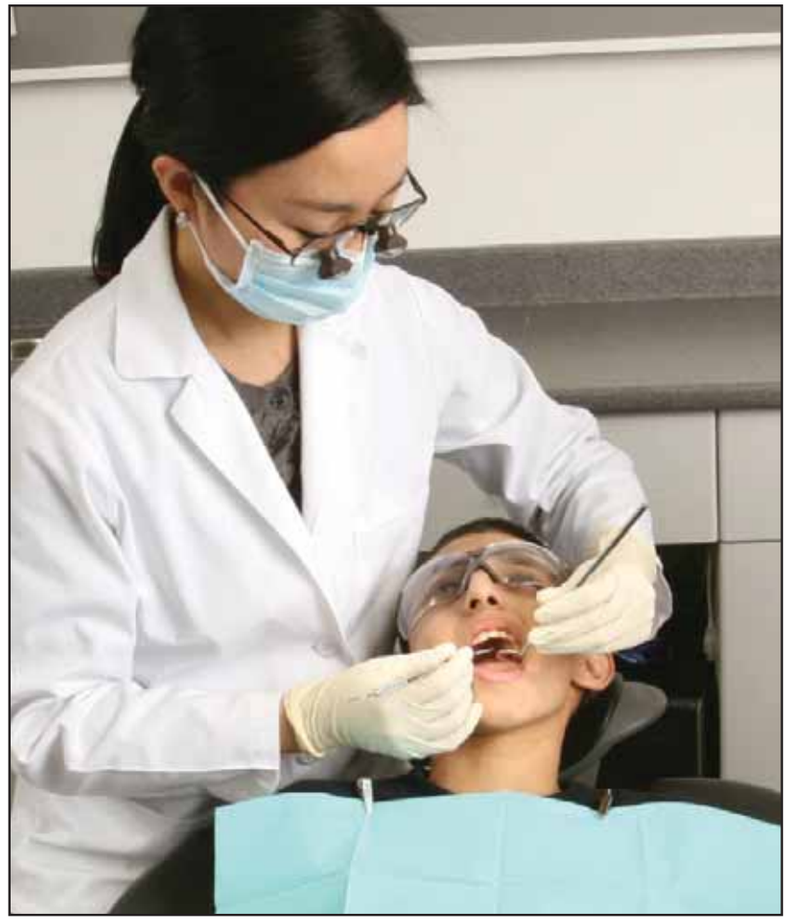
It is also important to understand that your dental insurance coverage is based on the plan purchased by your employer for all employees, which may or may not cover your unique oral health care needs.

Review your plan and discuss this with your dentist so that you can understand your options and can make the best decision for your own health.

During the dental examination your dentist will inspect a number of important areas and functions of your mouth to identify any early signs of dental disease and prevent small problems from becoming big ones.

Your dentist may perform parts of the examination in partnership with other members of the dental team and will gather all the necessary information to make an informed diagnosis.

Talk to your dentist if you have any questions about your dental exam, diagnosis or treatment options.



The dental exam and diagnosis is the foundation of oral health. Your dentist is able to detect and diagnose oral health problems to stop disease from advancing.

Your dentist may look at some or all of the following during your examination:

- Medical history including health conditions or medications that could impact dental care or treatment.
- X-rays are a valuable diagnostic tool that may be taken to see what's going on below the surface of the teeth and gums.
- Oral hygiene to confirm plaque and tartar levels that affect gums and teeth.
- The gums will be examined for signs of disease such as redness, swelling or infection.
- Soft tissue health, including the lips, tongue, cheeks and upper and lower surfaces of the mouth for signs of oral cancer or sensitivity.
- The condition of teeth to identify any damaged or decayed teeth along with the condition of any dental prosthesis (e.g. dentures).
- Existing dental work, such as fillings, root canals and crowns will also be inspected.
- Jaw function: how the teeth are fitting together and the bite. The overall health and function of the temporomandibular joint (joint that joins the jaw to the skull).
- The general condition of the bones in the face, jaw and around the mouth.
- The normal growth and development of baby and permanent teeth in children.

For more information talk to your dentist or visit bcdental.org.

British Columbia Dental Association

MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Secret to parenting equality? Saving time

New book. Metro's family columnist weighs in on Facebook chief operating officer's new book

IT'S ALL RELATIVE
Kathy Buckworth,
kathybuckworth.com

Chief operating officer of Facebook, Sheryl Sandberg, is encouraging women to "Lean In" to their careers, with her book of the same name. Essentially, she is tackling the age-old dilemma of how women should compete in a "man's world."

She argues that unless women approach a relentless pursuit of success at the office, we will never be able to achieve equality at home, both in terms of domestic responsibilities and raising the kids. According to Sandberg, one day the sight of watching a man do laundry will be "sexy."

While I'm not sure about that — productive, useful and obvious come to mind far before the word sexy does — I do agree that we need to find ways to be more efficient at home to get some equal footing.

Dad's cooking doesn't get questioned by the kids nearly as much as mom's.
ISTOCK

In fact, as I wrote about in my new book I Am So The Boss Of You: An 8 Step Guide To Giving Your Family The Business I concur that applying a more structured approach to the home is one way to get some control into the "wild ride" of parenting. And part of that structure has to include an equalization of domestic duties. But ultimately I don't think that moms will have achieved equality with dads until we can save time photographing and scrapbooking parts of it first or c) feeling guilty about it for a week. Not so for us moms.

Dads can call a slopped together meal Cowboy Casserole and get the kids to eat it without them once questioning the origin or the pedigree of the ingredients. I usually have to prove to them why my cooking isn't bad.

And how about the amount of time moms spend on making sure that we dress ourselves appropriately? Just consider how easy life would be at home if we didn't mind throwing on socks and sandals while proudly parading around in corporate logoed golf-shirts. Think of the accumulated minutes we could save just by not tucking in a shirt on the weekends.

But that's not all. Until we can liberate ourselves from the brain space required to know the last time the seven-year-old had a shower, the 10-year-old went to the dentist or the 14-year-old cracked open a textbook, most moms will still be more worried about falling over (with exhaustion), than leaning in.

KATHY BUCKWORTH IS AN AWARD WINNING WRITER. VISIT KATHYBUCKWORTH.COM OR FOLLOW KATHY ON TWITTER @KATHYBUCKWORTH.

In the kitchen

Dads can call a slopped together meal Cowboy Casserole and get the kids to eat it...

Kathy Buckworth
on at-home inequalities between parents

like they do.

Only a dad can throw out kids' artwork without attempting to a) hide it under all the recycling first or b)

Exclusively online

Family-friendly brunch: where the restaurant is overrun with screaming children. Follow the comedic (mis)adventures of mommyhood online with Reasons Mommy Drinks at metronews.ca/voices.

New mom memoirs

Everything is Perfect When You're a Liar

Kelly Oxford is one of Twitter's favourite personalities. Go behind the scenes of her family life in her new collection of essays, out now.

Baby Steps: Having the Child I Always Wanted (Just Not As I Expected)

Actress Elisabeth Röhm details her struggles with infertility while trying to remain in the Hollywood scene. As she writes, "Infertility, especially in Hollywood, is definitely a dirty little secret."

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Healthy eating

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Everyone's fave fast food chain offers a multitude of options. However, take into account the calories, fat and sodium.

McDonald's Angus Deluxe

780 calories / 47 g fat / 1,660 mg sodium
Angus beef is fattier than regular burger meat. The premium bun is 240 calories and 540 mg of sodium.

Equivalent

A McDonald's Angus Deluxe is equal in calories to a 13 oz (369 g) New York strip loin steak.

McDonald's Big Mac

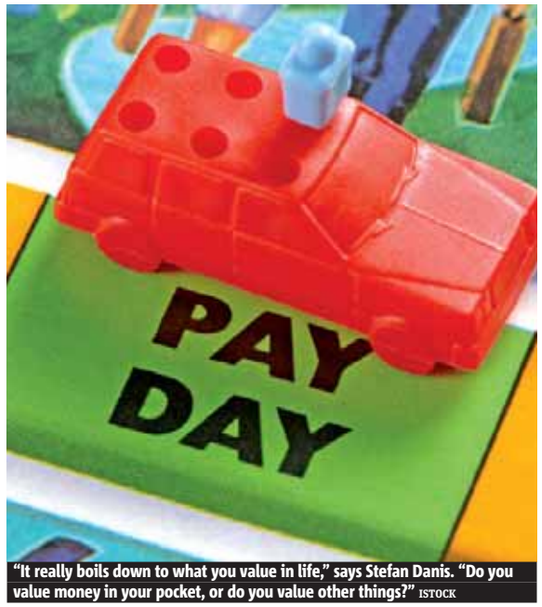
540 calories / 29 g fat / 1,020 mg sodium
The Big Mac is a better choice with close to a third less calories, fat and sodium.

Of bucks and benefits

Pennies vs. protection

It's not all about the number that shows up on your paycheque

YLVA VAN BUUREN
CareerBear.com



"It really boils down to what you value in life," says Stefan Danis. "Do you value money in your pocket, or do you value other things?" ISTOCK

OK, how much you make matters — it dictates where you live, where you shop, whether or not you can afford a holiday this year, or a new car. But pay attention to the benefits package the new job is offering, because benefits can be as good as money in the bank.

Salary can be one of about a dozen components of a job offer, and those components, ranging from financial incentives to holiday time, are all considered benefits in today's workplace, according to Stefan Danis, CEO of Mandrake and NEXCareer.

"Benefits are in many ways far more important than salary because of the sheer number that can be on the table," says Danis. "And in effect, they do equal real dollars."

Companies are increasingly looking at their workforce as individuals, as opposed to groups, and providing as much customization of benefits as possible. "One person's needs are different from another's. One might need an optometrist, another might need a dentist," says Danis.

"I recommend that when people negotiate a job offer, they have a written map of what they need and what they want in terms of money and benefits. If the employer can meet or exceed the need, great."

Here is a checklist of different benefits to weigh against the salary being offered.

Bonus

Rich in resources

> **"Benefits are in many ways far more important than salary because of the sheer number that can be on the table. And in effect, they do equal real dollars."**
> Stefan Danis
> CEO of Mandrake and NEXCareer

Find out exactly how your bonus is measured and ensure you can deliver. If it's a bonus that will be earned over both a short and long term, one strategy is to negotiate a lower amount in the short term but substantially more later, says Danis.

RRSP contributions and pension
Retirement income plans used to be the hallmark of benefits but they're not so much anymore, says Danis. Be sure to read the fine print if they are.

Performance appraisal
"Many organizations will review your salary 18 months after joining ... try to accelerate the review," says Danis.

Technology
Does the company supply equipment such as cellphones, iPads, tablets and laptops?

Transportation
Depending on the job, travel allowance, parking and car allowance can be important.

Holidays
Holiday time can be a deal breaker, says Danis. "People will fight harder against having to take less holiday time than less money." If a person has three weeks where they are now, they'll want three weeks where they're going.

Medical
Life stage plays into medical benefits. For example, if you have young children and your spouse is self employed, it probably means you need medical and dental benefits and coverage.

Childcare
Having daycare on site or working close to where you reside is important when you have children. Another "benefit" would be the flexibility to leave work early to pick up your kids — given the penalties for being late.

Flex-time/telecommuting
For some people, working from home once a week or doing work when you want to versus nine to five, is important.

Distance learning/education
Some people are interested in conference attendance fees —negotiating this upfront means you won't have to beg to go.

Ergonomics
Some people negotiate ergonomic chairs because the wrong chair causes back problems.

The great web of work

- Career Bear is Canada's premier source for people who want a new career but aren't sure where to start.
- Visitors to the website can browse careers by industry, salary, outlook or alphabetical listing and find job profiles, quick career facts and training programs near them.

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How to take eBay all the way

Budding bid-ness.
A self-employment strategy that's as easy as a click and a sale

BRUCE WALSH
Metro World News

A retail empire you can run from the comfort of your coffee table? Yes please! ISTOCK

In 2008 Dave Stewart was laid off from his maintenance tech position at a Pennsylvania nursing home. The news came as a shock and, as a result, he decided to take his career in a radically different direction.

Stewart is now one of a select few Americans that make their living through eBay. (The company claims 1.3 million sellers worldwide, but experts believe the number of individual, primary-income eBayers to be much smaller.)

"I no longer wanted to be dependent on someone else providing me with paycheques, because I saw that you couldn't rely on it as much as I did," says Stewart, from his home in Bucks County, Pa. "I wanted to be self-employed, but wasn't quite sure how to get there."

Inspiration struck, along with a bit of luck. He discovered a stockpile of obsolete car parts in his grandfather's cavernous garage. While his family was skeptical, Stewart was convinced there was a market for outdated parts.

"It started out as an experiment — just a few parts on the (eBay) page. They really sold fast, and I had an inkling I was on to something," says Stewart "Pretty soon, I had an eBay store, and I couldn't keep up with the orders."

Stewart's success wasn't based on luck alone. He operates his business with the systematic, detailed approach you'd expect in a much larger operation. Every one of the 1,600 items in his eBay store is researched thoroughly and displayed with precise photos and descriptions. These days, car parts represent less than half of the items in his store.

"To be successful on eBay, you have to be a salesman. It's like other sales jobs, if you're good at it, you can make a living — but only if you're good," says Stewart. "It's all about keeping people's interest with new merchandise. You can't just let it sit there and expect to make something."

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Raonic lifts Canada to historic Davis Cup win

Tennis. Milos Raonic punches Canada's first-ever ticket to the World Group semifinals

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Milos Raonic of Thornhill, Ont., leaps in triumph after defeating Italy's Andreas Seppi in Davis Cup action on Sunday in Vancouver. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Adios, Spain. Arrivederci, Italy.

Canada's Davis Cup team has made history, securing its first-ever berth in a World Group semifinal, thanks to a 3-1 victory over Italy this weekend at the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre at the UBC campus in Vancouver.

Milos Raonic earned the third and decisive win, defeating Andreas Seppi in four sets (6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 7-5). He finally broke Seppi, the 18th-ranked men's singles player, in the 12th game of the fourth set to punch Canada's ticket to the semifinals in which they will go up against Serbia in September.

"It's been a long road, but what we're going through right now, it's great," said team captain Martin Laurendeau in his post-match press conference alongside Raonic.

"I'm really proud of the guys for being able to perform under pressure and grabbing their opportunities when they're in front of them."

Raonic did that, utilizing a fast premier hard court and his commanding serve — he had 35 aces and 82 points on serve — to defeat Seppi.

But that was one match.

The turning point in the best-of-five quarter-final with Italy came Saturday, when Daniel Nestor and Vasek Pospisil broke out to a two-sets-to-none lead over Daniele Bracciali and Fabio Fognini, but then lost the third and fourth sets, setting up an emotionally charged fifth set.

Canada won that 15-13. It was a spectacle. It was epic. It gave Canada a 2-1 lead, which gave Raonic the chance to clinch.

"It was exciting in the sense that it gave a big, I think, lift to everybody," said Raonic.

"You could even tell, the tie wasn't over but the kind of celebration that was put out really by the guys was ... there was a big sigh of pride, pretty much. Everybody was so happy with that, everybody was so relieved to get that through but also very proud."

NHL

Canucks host Coyotes Monday

The Vancouver Canucks have just 10 games remaining in the condensed regular season, and they have a chance to put four points worth of distance between them and the Minnesota Wild in the battle for the Northwest Division.

The Canucks host the Phoenix Coyotes Monday at Rogers Arena, closing out a brief three-game home stand. Vancouver already won its previous two games — 4-0 over the Edmonton Oilers the day after the NHL's trade deadline, and 5-2 over the struggling Calgary Flames on Saturday.

A win Monday, and the Canucks would go four points up on the Wild.

The Canucks have won eight of their last 10 games.

Of the eight teams currently holding down a Western Conference playoff position, only the San Jose Sharks have a better record in their past 10 games.

The Coyotes, meanwhile, were ninth in the West as of Sunday evening. They have won their last three games and are three points back of the Detroit Red Wings for the final playoff spot in the conference. METRO

Cory Schneider recorded a shutout against the Oilers on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Let fate be your guide. The approaching new moon means you have nothing to fear and everything to look forward to, so stop worrying and expect good things to happen.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You must listen to your inner voice more over the next few days. It wants to tell you something you need to know, something that will make your life more exciting and enjoyable.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
An idea you had a while back, which you then forgot, will pop back into your head today, and this time you must not let it slip away.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It may seem as if a friend or work colleague has deceived you in some way but more likely you are getting angry for no good reason.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
This week's new moon means you can expect life to take a turn for the better. Not that it's too bad at the moment but you have been worrying a lot about certain issues. Forget them, they really don't matter.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your vibrant personality draws people to you. Everyone wants to be your friend. If you are free and single this is an excellent time for new romance. If you are attached, spice up your love life.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You want to believe that a certain person is trustworthy but something about their attitude makes you wonder if that is wise. Listen to your instincts – they rarely let you down.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
A creative idea could make you a fortune, IF you have the courage to follow it through to completion. Don't let everyone know about it though.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Life is good and will get even better. The approaching new moon suggests it's time to step up a gear and make sure the world knows who you are and what you can do.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Whatever it is you are working on will bring huge success. Friends and rivals will be amazed at how quickly and easily you turn a good idea into a concrete reality.

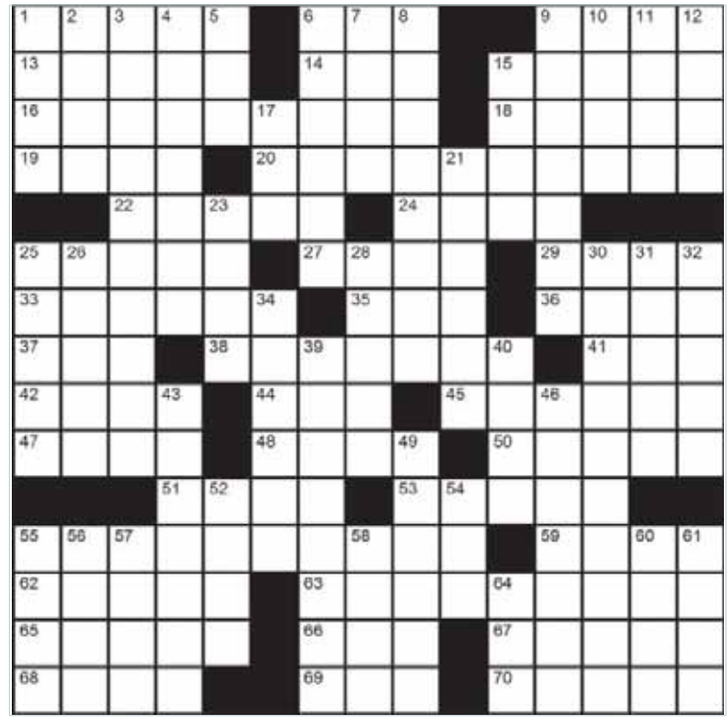
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Social activities of all sorts will bring you a great deal of joy over the next few days. Don't sit at home staring at the same four walls, get out there and have fun.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
A number of things in your life may look the wrong way up at the moment but before this week is over everything will make perfect sense. Just wait, watch and listen between now and Wednesday. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



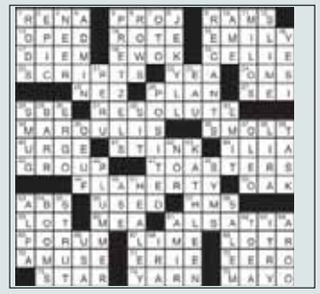
Across

1. Country legend Ms. Cline
6. Nero's 1101
9. Not us
13. "Elvis: __ from Hawaii" (Satellite-beamed special of 1973)
14. Geological period
15. What place?
16. They're frequently applied on "Dancing with the Stars": 2 wds.
18. Luau dances
19. Selected
20. St. Francis Xavier University's locale in Nova Scotia
22. Rain clouds
24. Alum
25. Canadian performers' union
27. Ms. Yothers of "Family Ties"
29. Bible mountain
33. Sandbanks
35. X - III = ?
36. Mil. unit
37. Oz musical, with The
38. Opera great Mr. Pavarotti
41. Scheming
42. Succulent plant
44. Bakery offering
45. The __ Family (Family of Canadian hockey players)
47. __ sign
48. Halts
50. Uses a sieve
51. Bereft, in poetry
53. TV clicker, when used to decrease volume
55. Conrad Black, formerly: 2 wds.
59. Prima donna
62. Be a being
63. Canadian voicer of Shrek: 2 wds.
65. Demise
66. 'Verb' suffix (Wordy)
67. Actress Ms. Suvari's
68. Baffin, et al.
69. "The Simpsons" character Mr. Flanders
70. Subtractin' opposite

Down

1. Yore
2. Dog food brand
3. Two headline-grabbing Giant Pandas will call it home for the next five years: 2 wds.
4. Christina Aguilera's replacement on "The Voice"
5. "Whoopee!"
6. Be sincere: 2 wds.
7. Abbr. indicating there's another page
8. Badge
9. __ Bay, Ontario
10. Prefix to 'copter'
11. Epochs
12. Interlock
15. "Slow down!"
17. Key above Caps Lock
21. Millet, and others
23. West Edmonton __
25. Nile River dam
26. South American country
28. Covered-in-foliage buildings
30. Dearest pal: 2 wds.
31. Shoelace tip
32. __. __. (Astr. length units)
34. Brilliant
39. Raisin toast spice
40. Boot
43. Signs up
46. Like psychedelic-style T-shirts
49. Montreal specialty, __ meat
52. Pledge
54. 'Trib' ending
55. __-spa
56. Former flames
57. Radio tuner
58. Ascend
60. True: French
61. 'A' of NBA, for short
64. UFC sport

Friday's Crossword

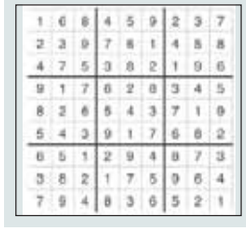


Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	8	9	1		5	4	3	
3	6						7	8
		7	5		8	9		
	1			3			8	
		8	7		2	3		
8	9						1	5
	5	3	4		6	7	9	

Friday's Sudoku



Today
12°/6°
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Tuesday
10°/8°
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Bali Air + 10 Nights 4-Star — from $1699
INCLUDES hilltop accom overlooking the Bay of Tanjung Benoa.

Dubai Air + 7 Nights — from $1734
INCLUDES apartment-style accom in the city centre. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $13 per night. **ADD** moonlight sonata cruise from $97.

Rio de Janeiro Air + 7 Nights — from $1769
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Anaheim Air + 3 Nights — from $458
INCLUDES accom near theme parks.

San Francisco Air + 3 Nights — from $619
INCLUDES accom near Union Square.

Orlando Family Special Air + 7 Nights — from $699◊
INCLUDES accom near major attractions. Price per person based on family of 4. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $7 per night. **ADD** *Walt Disney World* Resort 4-Day *Magic Your Way* Base Ticket from $285/adult, $266/child (ages 3-9).

Miami Air + 3 Nights — from $769
INCLUDES Miami Beach accom. **ADD** Everglades and Biscayne boat tour from $96.

Honolulu Air + 7 Nights — from $847
INCLUDES Waikiki accom near beach.

New York Air + 3 Nights — from $974
INCLUDES Manhattan accom. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $12 per night. **ADD** double decker city tour from $59.

Europe

London Air + 6 Nights
from **$1424**
INCLUDES central accom near Russell Square. **ADD** Red Rover Thames hop-on hop-off tour from $15.

Barcelona Air + 7 Nights — from $1539
INCLUDES 4-star accom near Park Güell.

Paris & Amsterdam
Air + 8 Nights — from $1669
INCLUDES all airfare, 4 nights central Paris accom and 4 nights central Amsterdam accom.

May Long Weekend

Seattle 3 Nights
from **$264**pp
INCLUDES art-deco accom in the University District. **ADD** Space Needle admission from $24.

Whistler 3 Nights 4-Star — from $189pp
INCLUDES boutique accom in the Village. **ADD** mountain explorer ATV tour from $133.

Toronto Air + 3 Nights 4-Star — from $759
INCLUDES Harbourfront accom. **BONUS** upgrade to full lakeview room included. **UPGRADE** to 5-star accom from $24 per night. **ADD** Niagara Falls excursion from $156.

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